This Index is not widely accepted as it is subjective, does not provide use based risk and has other limitations. The study also does not report individual parameters used for the index in respect of which Indian water quality standards have been notified.

The other major findings of the World Bank sponsored study broadly relate to water shortages and flooding, urban outdoor air pollution, indoor air pollution, solid waste, land degradation and forest & biodiversity loss. Government is addressing these problems through the enforcement of various statutory provisions and through programmes implemented by different departments.

Consideration of Disinvestment of NFL

*79. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the consideration of disinvestment of National Fertilizer Ltd. has been put-off for two years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) was Government able to secure bids for reserve price; and

(d) if not, steps being taken to improve the performance of NFL to attract better offers?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of reply to (a) above.

(c) Reserve price of National Fertilizers Ltd. (NFL) has not been finalized.

(d) Does not arise in view of reply to (c) above.

Public Sector investment in agriculture production

*80. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the agriculture production in the country is showing a downward trend since 1991 particularly after 1996-97;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Public Sector investment in agriculture declined considerably during this period;

(d) if so, the year-wise details of Public Sector investment in agriculture during the years 1991-2002;

(e) the comparative figures of investment during the years 1980-90;

(f) whether the low investment by Public Sector negatively affect the growth and competitiveness of this sector; and

(g) the reasons of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) . (a) and (b) The total value of output in Agriculture including Animal Husbandry and Dairying during the years, 1990-91 to 2001-02 at 1993-94 prices as compiled by the Central Statistical Organisation is given in Statement-I (*See* below). Though there were fluctuations in agricultural production in some years due to adverse weather conditions, it is seen from Annexure-I that there has been no declining trend in value of output during the above mentioned period.

(c) to (e) The Public Sector investment in Agriculture measured in terms of Gross Capital Formation (GCF) during the years from 1981-82 to 2001-02 at 1993-94 prices is shown in Statement-II (*See* below).

(f) and (g) Though there was a declining trend in public investment during 1995-96 to 1998-99 the trend was reversed in 1999-2000. Though the public sector GCF in Agriculture declined, there was no corresponding decline in the agriculture production as discernable from the figures of value of output given in Annexure-I. However, growth and competitiveness of Indian agriculture would improve further though increase in production and productivity if public investment is stepped up for further augmenting irrigation facilities and developing rural infrastructure.

Government of India have been implementing a number of schemes/ programmes for improving irrigation facilities and rural infrastructure. These include Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme for expeditious completion of ongoing major & medium irrigation projects; Drought Prone Area Programme; Desert Development Programme; National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas; Integrated Wasteland

Development Programme; Rural Infrastructure Development Fund established in NABARD to provide financial assistance to State Governments to augment investments in irrigation, rural roads and bridges, market yards/godowns, inland waterways etc. Besides, with a view to pass on the benefit of declining interest rates to agriculture sector, public sector banks have reduced their lending rates for agriculture to a maximum 9 per cent per annum on crop loans upto a ceiling of Rs.50,000.

Statement-I

Value of Output in Agriculture including Animal Husbandry and Dairying

At 1993-94 prices

Year	Value of output (Rs.Crore)
1990-91	251885
1991-92	249050
1992-93	261901
1993-94	271839
1994-95	284975
1995-96	284273
1996-97	307393
1997-98	302399
1998-99	323017
1999-00	324298
2000-01	320370
2001-02	336900

Statement-II

Public Sector Gross Capital Formation (GCF) in Agriculture including Animal Husbandry and Dairying

	At 1993-94 prices Public Sector
Year	GCF (Rs.Crore)
1980-81	6935
1981-82	6765
1982-83	6674
1983-84	6607
1984-85	6390
1985-86	5792
1986-87	5407
1987-88	5600
1988-89	5240
1989-90	4433
1990-91	4395
1991-92	3871
1992-93	4076
1993-94	4467
1994-95	4947
1995-96	4849
1996-97	4668
1997-98	3979
1998-99	3870
1999-00	4222
2000-01	3919
2001-02	4794